

What is Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)?

The proposed MBT plant will treat mixed household waste by mechanically removing some materials and biologically treating others. Some of the recovered materials, such as metals and plastics, can be recycled. The main output will be a stabilised organic material which looks like compost. This can be used as a soil enhancer or can be landfilled. In this form it takes up less room in landfill sites than untreated waste and has less impact on the environment.

Three other MBT facilities are already operating in the UK and MBT systems like the one proposed in Cambridgeshire are used elsewhere in Europe to treat mixed household waste very successfully.

The advantages of this type of MBT system are:

- It will reduce our dependency on landfill
- We will be able to recover additional materials from our waste to recycle or use in other ways
- We will retain flexibility to respond to changes in the type of waste we have to deal with in the years to come

Overview of MBT process

